

**Remarks**

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application.

Claims 1-11, 13-17, 19-27 and 29-32 are pending in the application.

**Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103**

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16-24, 26, 27, 29, 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoisington (US Patent No. 5,757,400) ("Hoisington") in view of Kanda et al (US Patent No. 6,502,921 B2) ("Kanda"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, 17, and 27 to more clearly define the physical relationship between the first sub-column of ink drop generators and the second sub-column of ink drop generators. Applicants have also amended claims 1 and 17 to more clearly define the relationship between the first and second ink manifolds and the first and second sub-columns.

The Examiner should allow claims 2 – 8, 10, 13, 14, 16, 18 – 24, 26, 29, 30, and 32 if claims 1, 11, 17, and 27 are allowed, as claims 2 – 8 and 10 depend from claim 1, claims 13, 14, and 16 depend from claim 11, claims 16, and 18 – 24 depend from claim 17, and claims 29, 30, and 32 depend from claim 27.

Claims 9, 15, 25, and 31 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoisington as modified by Kanda, as applied to claims 1 and 11 above, and further in view of Erickson (US Patent No. 5,079,571) ("Erickson").

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. The Examiner should allow claims 9, 15, 25, and 31 if claims 1, 11, 17, and 27 are allowed as claim 9 depends from claim 1, claim 15 depends from claim 11, claim 25 depends from claim 17, and claim 31 depends from claim 27.

**Conclusion**

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

A telephone interview is respectfully requested at the number listed below prior to any further Office Action, i.e., if the Examiner has any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any further Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



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